

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1     1.     A method for transferring electronic data, the method comprising:  
2             receiving a request to access a communications system at a first geographic location  
3             from a client located at a second geographic location remote from the first geographic  
4             location;  
5             identifying a proxy local to the client in the second geographic location; and  
6             receiving subsequent data requests from the client at the proxy.
- 1     2.     The method of claim 1, further comprising encapsulating the data requests in a  
2             tunneling protocol at the proxy.
- 1     3.     The method of claim 1, wherein the tunneling protocol comprises User Datagram  
2             Protocol.
- 1     4.     The method of claim 1, further comprising determining whether the data request can  
2             be satisfied by electronic data stored in a cache at the second geographic location.
- 1     5.     The method of claim 1, further comprising sending the data requests to the Internet.
- 1     6.     The method of claim 1, further comprising retrieving electronic data responsive to the  
2             data requests at the proxy.
- 1     7.     The method of claim 1, further comprising storing electronic data responsive to the  
2             data requests in a cache at the second geographic location.
- 1     8.     The method of claim 1, further comprising performing filtering of electronic data at  
2             the proxy.
- 1     9.     The method of claim 8, wherein the filtering is performed according to user-defined  
2             preferences.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising transferring electronic data responsive to  
2 the data requests to a client from the proxy.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the first geographic location is in a first country and  
2 the second geographic location is in a second country different than the first country.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the communications system is an online service  
2 provider.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the proxy comprises an IP tunnel.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the IP tunnel comprises a Layer Two Tunneling  
2 Protocol Tunnel.

1 15. A computer program for transferring electronic data from a communications system,  
2 the computer program being stored on a computer readable medium and comprising  
3 instructions for:

4 receiving a request to access a communications system at a first geographic location  
5 from a client located at a second geographic location remote from the first geographic  
6 location;

7 identifying a proxy local to the client in the second geographic location; and

8 receiving subsequent data requests from the client at the proxy.

1 16. The computer program of claim 15, the computer readable medium comprising a  
2 disc.

1 17. The computer program of claim 16, the computer readable medium comprising a  
2 client device.

1 18. The computer program of claim 16, the computer readable medium comprising a host  
2 device.

1 19. The computer program of claim 16, the computer readable medium comprising a  
2 propagated signal.

1 20. The computer program of claim 16, wherein the first geographic location is in a first  
2 country and the second geographic location is in a second country different than the first  
3 country.

1 21. The computer program of claim 16, wherein the communications system is an online  
2 service provider.

1 22. The computer program of claim 16, wherein the proxy comprises an IP tunnel.

1 23. The computer program of claim 22, wherein the IP tunnel comprises a Layer Two  
2 Tunneling Protocol Tunnel.

1 24. A communications apparatus for transferring electronic data from a communications  
2 system, the apparatus configured to:

3 receive a request to access a communications system at a first geographic location  
4 from a client located at a second geographic location remote from the first geographic  
5 location;

6 identify a proxy local to the client in the second geographic location; and

7 receive subsequent data requests from the client at the proxy.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the first geographic location is in a first country  
2 and the second geographic location is in a second country different than the first country.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the communications system is an online service  
2 provider.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the proxy comprises an IP tunnel.

